

OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS
NEWS SERVICEDate. 22 APRIL 80
Item No. 4
Ref. No. _____

DISTRIBUTION II

~~112~~
A
JL Rescue

(IRAN BRIEFS)

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) - A SAN FRANCISCO RADIO STATION HAS REPORTED THE ATTEMPT TO FREE U.S. HOSTAGES IN IRAN WAS APPROVED DESPITE A CIA WARNING THAT 60 PERCENT OF THE CAPTIVES COULD BE KILLED OR WOUNDED IN THE RESCUE.

STATION KCBS REPORTED YESTERDAY ITS INFORMATION CAME FROM A SOURCE WITH ACCESS TO A MARCH 24 CIA ANALYSIS, SENT TO THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, WHICH RECOMMENDED ABANDONING PLANS FOR A HELICOPTER COMMANDO RAID. IT SAID THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT CONFIRM OR DENY THE REPORT.

TYPICALLY, SUCH ANALYSIS CONTAINS A "BEST CASE", "WORST CASE" AND "MIDDLE RANGE" PREDICTION. IN THE MARCH 24 DOCUMENT, THE KCBS SOURCE SAID, THE "MIDDLE RANGE" FORECAST REPORTEDLY PREDICTED A MAJORITY OF THE HOSTAGES COULD DIE IN A COMMANDO RAID - PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE THE AMERICANS WERE BEING HELD IN GROUPS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE EMBASSY COMPOUND, AND IT WOULD BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FREE ALL OF THE CAPTIVES SIMULTANEOUSLY.

ANOTHER REPORTED PROBLEM WITH THE RAID WAS LACK OF DEPENDABILITY ON THE PART OF NATIVE IRANIANS RECRUITED TO ASSIST THE STRIKE FORCE.

MANY OF THE LOCAL PARTISANS APPARENTLY HAD NOT BEEN PAID FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, AND WERE STARTING TO DOUBT AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO EVACUATE THEM ALONG WITH THE FREED HOSTAGES, KCBS SAID, AND REPORTED THAT THE ASSAULT TEAM WAS CARRYING MORE THAN \$1 MILLION IN IRANIAN CURRENCY TO PAY THE LOCAL PARTISANS.

-A-

UPI